CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of developing a software application, the method comprising:

2   receiving a first copy of a software application from a software application server;

3   running the first copy of the software application within a development environment;

4   modifying at least one property of the first copy of the software application; and

5   sending an update notice to the software application server to indicate the modification of

6   the property.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an update notice from the

2   software application server and updating at least one property in at least one

3   properties table associated with the at least one copy of the software application in

4   response to the update notice.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the update notice reflects a modification of a

2   property in the properties table of a second copy of the software application while

3   the first copy of the software application is running

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving and running a copy of a

2   development application to establish the development environment.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the software application is the development

2   application.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the modified property in at

2   least one properties table associated with the first copy of the software.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the properties modified are visual control

2   properties.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the visual control properties are included in a

2   visual control properties table to define the visual controls of the running first

3   copy of the software application.

1   9.   The method of claim 5, wherein the first copy of the software application is

2   running on a client, further comprising deleting the copy of the software

3   application from the client when the development environment is closed.

1   10.   A method of developing a software application, the method comprising:

2   receiving a first copy of a software application from a software application server;

3   running the first copy of the software application within a software development

4   environment;

5   modifying at least one property of the first copy of the software application within the

6   development environment;

7   storing the modified property in at least one properties table associated with the first copy

8   of the software;

9   testing the operation of the modified property of the first copy of the software application

10   within the development environment by referencing the properties table associated

11   with the first copy of the software.

1   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein testing the operation of the modified property

2   using the properties table associated with the first copy of the software application

3   comprises activating or deactivating at least one development switch within the

4   development environment to cause the first copy of the software application to

5   respond as if it were running outside of the development environment.

1   12.   The method of claim 11, wherein activating or deactivating at least one

2   development switch comprises activating or deactivating the Alt key on a

3   keyboard.

1   13.   The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2   sending an update notice to the application server to indicate the modification to the

3   property; and

4   updating at least one property in the properties table in response to at least one update

5   received from the application server resulting from a modification of a property in

6   at least one properties table of a second copy of the software application while the

7   first copy of the software application is running.

1   14.   In a development application for creating software applications, a method for

2   simultaneous development of a software application by two or more clients, the

3   method comprising:

4 running a first copy of a software application in conjunction with a first development

5   application and a second copy of the software application in conjunction with a

6   second development application;

7 modifying a first property of the first copy of the software application using the first

8   development application and modifying a second property of the second copy of

9   the software application using the second development application;

10 storing the modifications to the first property in at least a first property table associated

11   with the first copy of the software application and storing the modifications to the

12   second property in at least a second property table associated with the second copy

13   of the software application;

14 updating the first property table with the modification made to the second property and

15   updating the second property table with the modification made to the first

16   property.

1   15.   The method of claim 14, wherein the first development application is associated

2   with a first development client and the second development application is

3   associated with a second development client.

1　16.　The method of claim 14, wherein updating occurs substantially simultaneous with
2　　　　the modifications to the first and second properties.

1　17.　The method of claim 14, wherein the software application is the development
2　　　　application.

1　18.　A method of updating a software application, the method comprising:

2　receiving a first copy of a software application from a software application server;

3　running the first copy of the software application;

4　receiving an update to at least one property of the software application;

5　updating the at least one property while the application is running.

1　19.　The method of claim 18, wherein receiving an update comprises receiving an
2　　　　update in response to a modification made to a second copy of the software
3　　　　application which is being developed while the first copy of the software
4　　　　application is running.

1　20.　The method of claim 18, wherein receiving an update to at least one property of
2　　　　the software application comprises receiving an update to at least one properties
3　　　　table associated with the software application which defines at least one property
4　　　　of the running first copy of the software application.

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1   21.   The method of claim 20, wherein the properties table comprises a visual control

2   properties table.

1   22.   The method of claim 21, wherein updating the at least one property comprises

2   replacing the property within the properties table with an updated property.

1   23.   A system for developing software applications, the system comprising:

2   at least one development application server (DAS) containing a development application;

3   at least one software application server (SAS) containing a software application; and

4   at least one development client (DC) associated with the DAS and the SAS;

5   wherein the DC is configured to receive a copy of the development application from the

6   DAS and a copy of the software application from the SAS, to execute the copy of

7   the development application and the copy of the software application, to modify

8   properties of the copy of the running software application, and provide update

9   notices to the SAS for each modified property.

1   24.   The system of claim 23, further comprising at least a second DC associated with a

2   DAS and an SAS, wherein the at least a second DC is configured to receive a

3   copy of the development application from its DAS and a copy of the software

4   application from its SAS, to execute the copy of the development application and

5   the copy of the software application, to modify properties of the copy of the

6   running software application, and provide update notices to its SAS for each

7   modified property.

1   25.   The system of claim 24, wherein each SAS of the system which receives an

2   update notice is configured to modify the properties of its software application

3   and forward the update notice to each of its clients.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the properties are stored in at least one property

2   table and the property table is modified when an update notice is received.

1   27.   The system of claim 23, further comprising a software application client (AC)

2   associated with an SAS; wherein the AC is configured to receive a copy of the

3   software application from the SAS, to execute the copy of the software

4   application, and to update its properties when an update notice is received from

5   the SAS.

1   28.   The system of claim 27, wherein each client may run its copy of the software

2   application and receive update notices from the SAS regardless of whether

3   another client is running a copy of the software application.

1   29.   The system of claim 24, wherein the software application is the development

2   application.

1   30.   The system of claim 27, wherein the AC is a backup for the application software.